

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Plainview Mn June 16/09

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I have A DAIRY farm with crops
and ALFALFA. I AM IN ALFALFA FIELDS
20 times year cutting RAKES, BALING, feeding,
etc. will have to work AROUND LINES
and under these LINES every Spring, Summer & Fall
See MAP showing contours & STRIPS

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

"See Attached"

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Eldon Malwitz

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: 10852 40th AVE NE

City: Elgin State: MN Zip Code: 55932

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507 273-8985

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Special uses and circumstances on our property that should be considered when assessing the Project.

Our property is located in Sec 16 Farmington Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota.

The Capx 2020 electric lines are proposed to run down the middle of our property. Our Dairy farm has very hilly land and we therefore have a large number of crop contours on our farm. We have a high proportion of Alfalfa hay production because of rolling land (*See Reference #1*). We harvest our hay 4 times a year we spend a lot of time in the alfalfa fields. We plant the hay, spray for insects, fertilize the hay, cut the hay, rake the hay, bale the hay each harvest so we are on the land at least 20 times a year. This will make the power lines inconvenient for us versus a corn and soybean farmer which may go over their land 3 times a year. **We think a better solution is to run the power line to County RD 11 (B160 on the map) and then go south on Co Rd 11 because it will not be running down the middle of the fields and instead will be on the edge of Co RD 11 or to run the power line down B159.**

There are 3 dairy farms along the current proposal that will be badly affected by the power lines and there are **no** dairy farms along Co Rd 11(B160) or down route (B159). There are also a lot less farm residences on Co Rd 11 and down route B159 than under the current proposal.

The proposal of running the power line through the middle of our land is going to decrease the value of our land substantially. You can imagine the financial impact this will have on us. Even if we never sell the property, and our children inherit the land, it reduces the value that we or our future generations can borrow against the land. If the power lines can be run down on the edge of a road it will not put as much financial hardship on our farm property that is why we also like running the power line down Co Rd 11(B160) or down B159.

We also understand that the easement rights will be half as expensive if the power line is shifted to a road versus down the middle of our property. We therefore believe there are better alternatives than the current on running through the middle of our farm.

I-168-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-168-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project and socioeconomic impacts to property values affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

